

**O**ur Landmark School Building, the second-oldest public school in Dallas, has welcomed neighborhood children for nearly 100 years.

While the face of our neighborhood has changed radically in recent years, the little faces who come to learn at our school continue to reflect the historically multicultural inner-city population of Dallas. Most of our students now travel considerable distances to school each day, having left the neighborhood when their apartments were replaced with condominiums. Some "tried" the schools in their new neighborhoods, but have come back to us for the same welcoming, intimate learning atmosphere that Ben Milam afforded their older siblings, cousins, parents, and even grandparents. Children are successful here.

Designated a "21<sup>st</sup> century Community Learning Center," Ben Milam offers opportunities for children to develop academically, socially, culturally, and artistically through an extensive after school program and a Saturday School.

**O**ur kids are working hard. The majority of them are challenged to succeed in a language and culture foreign to them.

And they need a safe place to play.

*Neither the Bond Program nor the DISD budget includes provisions to replace our playgrounds. This project must be fully funded by donations.*

The Ben Milam PTA has worked hard to improve our school grounds and to raise funds to build anew playground for our students. Parent and community Volunteers have adorned our campus with new flowerbeds and bountiful planters flanking the front entrances. PTA Parents sell nachos and fruit cups on Fridays and wash cars on Saturdays, and the pennies add up each year to a few hundred dollars. But in a school of only 300 students, most of them designated at-risk economically, it is unrealistic to hope that the Ben Milam family alone can generate the thousands of dollars needed to give our children a safe place to play.

**O**nly with the help of our community can we imagine reaching our goal.

Perhaps you are one of our new neighbors, living in one of the beautiful new condominiums that now line the streets adjacent to our school, and you know of business looking for the right beneficiary of a community development donation.

Perhaps you are one of our Corporate Neighbors, with a vested interest in the aesthetics of the area as you attract new residents and businesses, and you have at

your disposal manpower, equipment, and materials that you could put to work for us.

**O**r maybe you just love kids, and like is you believe that a healthy childhood should include some safe outdoor play.

If you would like to be personally contacted, you may return this form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Business or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_.

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_.

Or contact Principal Ruth Vail 972-749-5603, [rvail@dallasisd.org](mailto:rvail@dallasisd.org) with your questions.

Your gift is tax-deductible, and donors of \$500 or more will be recognized at a special groundbreaking ceremony and named on a permanent commemorative marker to be placed in the new playground area.

Ben Milam Elementary school  
4200 McKinney Avenue at Fitzhugh  
Dallas Texas 75205

**We hope you want to play!**

Ben Milam Elementary School  
Est. 1908

Our old playground equipment, built and installed decades before the institution of current standards of safety and handicap accessibility, has recently been condemned and slated for removal.

*Most of our students live in apartments and enjoy little or no outdoor play at home. They deserve a safe place to play at school.*

We are turning to you, our community Neighbors, to help plan, design and build a new playground for the children of your neighborhood elementary school.

We need shade trees, swings, see-saws and climbing equipment, and our goal is to have a new playground in place for our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

*Friends of Ben Milam Playground Project*  
**Ben Milam Elementary School**  
4200 McKinney Avenue Dallas, Texas 75025

## Want to Play?

We're looking for  
a few good friends

## Want to Play?

*Friends of Ben Milam  
Playground Project*

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4200 McKinney Avenue at Fitzhugh  
Dallas Texas 75205

Ruth Vail, Principal 972-749-5603